
MEMORANDUM

PDS-C 17-2023

Subject: 2023 Public Realm Investment Program Launch

Date: May 10, 2023

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee

From: Julia van der Laan de Vries, Landscape Architect

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Planning and Economic Development Committee that on April 17, 2023 staff launched this year's installment of the Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP).

At this time, local area municipalities are invited to submit applications for funding requests to the 2023 program.

The program seeks to award up to \$350,000 annually of matching funding to area municipalities for public realm enhancement projects. These projects are located along regional roads and in areas of significant regional capital investments. This year's program builds upon the success of the past seven years, delivering impactful and transformative public realm projects across the region. Over the course of the program, funding for over 33 public realm enhancement projects was distributed to 11 of Niagara's communities. Since 2016, close to \$1,950,000 of Regional funding contributed to municipal projects worth over \$32,000,000.

Highlights of the 2022 Program

- Minimum funding request is \$25,000
- Maximum funding per project is \$150,000
- Matching municipal funding is required. Eligible projects must have a local municipal funding commitment and be in an advanced stage of design
- Local roads which feature significant regional capital investments are included in the program

The 2023 PRIP application form plus the application guide was circulated to area municipalities and interested parties such as Community Improvement Coordinators. This package includes eligibility requirements, a table of eligible public realm improvements, project evaluation criteria, and the payment process. The application guide is attached as Appendix 1 to this memorandum.

Submissions for funding through the program must include a completed application form, signed by staff of the area municipality. Submissions must also include a maintenance commitment by the area municipality, a cost estimate of the capital items and project information such as design drawings and technical specifications.

In order to ensure that the work meets applicable operational and technical criteria, a team of Regional staff with expertise in urban design, landscape architecture, transportation engineering, and operations review the submissions and evaluate the eligible projects.

Key Dates

April 17, 2023	Call for submissions: Application period opens
June 2, 2023	Submission deadline for applications
June 26, 2023	Funding notifications issued to applicants
August 9, 2023	Funding commitment summary memorandum to PEDC

Staff will report to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in the fall of 2023 with an update highlighting the PRIP projects completed within the past program year.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Julia van der Laan de Vries, BA, BLA, OALA
Landscape Architect